

V. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

GENERAL:

This chapter presents an analysis of the ability of the existing street system to serve the area's travel desires as the area continues to grow. The usefulness of transportation planning is in the analysis of different highway configurations for their efficiency in serving the area. The following includes several alternatives for providing specific services to the area.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The Cities of Rockingham and Hamlet have their own priorities and concerns relating to the transportation system, and related topics. In order to determine the items of importance to the planning area, a "Goals and Objectives" survey was conducted in 1995. The survey included questions about topics such as new roads, improvements to existing roads, sidewalks, landscaping, and intersections. Additional space was provided for comments at the end of the survey. See Appendix B for a complete discussion of the Goals and Objectives Survey.

The results of the survey indicated that the transportation improvements most desired were preservation of neighborhood/community, increased traffic safety, and avoiding urbanization and strip development. Other goals viewed as important include improving travel safety for pedestrians/bicyclists and encouraging economic vitality.

With regard to local project needs, there exists an overwhelming support for the US 74 Bypass. On the other hand, very little support was recorded for widening US 220 to a multilane facility.

ALTERNATIVE PLANS:

The process of developing, testing and evaluating alternate plans involved a number of considerations. These included area goals and objectives (above), identified deficiencies (**Chapter IV**), environmental impacts, existing and anticipated land development, and travel service. Travel forecasts provide a basis for evaluation of alternatives as to ability to serve future travel needs. Aerial photography, topographic mapping, field reconnaissance and discussion with city staff, planning officials and interested local citizens provided additional basis for identifying and evaluating the alternative alignments.

Some of the major system problems which need to be addressed by the thoroughfare plan include: deficiency for serving the US 74 Bypass (Broad Avenue) corridor traffic; and determining what to do at the two signalized intersections along Raleigh Street, between Spring Street and Hamlet Avenue.